

USERS' NEWS

MARCH, 1981

VOL. 2, NO. 1 & 2

BUSINESS COMPUTER SHOW HELD

The 1981 Business & Personal Computer Sales Expo was held at the Albert Thomas Convention Center February 18, 19 and 20.

Nearly 13,000 professionals, small businessmen, and hobbyists attended the event, which is the first in a series of six such shows.

The show featured mini and micro computer systems, peripheral equipment and software for business and personal computers as well as business products for word processing, business communications and business graphics.



According to show manager, Jesse Akins, this is the first show in Houston sponsored by Produx 2000 of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Akins noted that the show helped businessmen see what services he now uses and what he needs to use.

Akins also pointed out that since computers are so well suited for business applications, more small computers are being used for business purposes instead of by hobbyists.

Similar shows are scheduled to be held in New York, Philadelphia, Los Angeles and Chicago in coming months.

Several exhibitors at the show were for the personal computer users, including Radio Shack, Adventure International, Computex and Source.

According to Akins, a bigger and better show by Produx 2000 is slated to come to Houston in 8 months. The tentative dates for the show are October 15, 16 and 17. Akins pointed out that the October show will include a Saturday, which will enable more small businessmen and hobbyists to attend the show.

Akins expects the October show to be at least 25% larger and expects about 30% more people to attend.

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TRS-80 is a trademark of Tandy Corp.

NEXT MEETING

Date: MARCH 4, 1981

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

Program: APL Language explained by BILL NEVILLE.
Micronet explained by BEN TAYLOR.

Basic "Basic" explained by KIP BARTRAN
Sort & Search explained by BILL YOUNG.

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A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By BILL YOUNG

Now is the time for all good members to come to the aid of their computer clubs and themselves.

How can we get the most out of our club? We can all share our knowledge and experiences. One of the most efficient ways to share our knowledge is to give a talk to the club about something we are interested in. The whole club gains by the information you present and you gain by organizing your ideas into a logical presentation for the club. The best way to understand a subject is to explain it to someone else.

My main point this month is "Why don't you give a talk to the Club about some subject you are interested in?" If you haven't tried presenting some subject to the club before, let me give you a possible outline for a hardware or software subject:

1. Overview of the subject, giving strong and weak points and general descriptions.
2. Tell how the subject might relate to the members.
3. Give a specific example of how you have used the subject.
4. Give your opinion of the subject's usefulness.
5. Give the source for the subject and its price.
6. Give a source for further study or information on the subject.
7. Question and answer period.

Usually 15-20 minutes are enough time to give the club members an idea of what the subject is and if they would be interested in more information, without taking a chance of boring those who are not interested in the subject. Some possible topics for a talk to the group might be:

FORTRAN

COBOL

PASCAL

CPM

Comparisons: Model I and Model II
Model I and Model III

Discussion on Database programs
(what they are used for and
which programs are good)

Please consider giving the club the benefit of your experience and knowledge. Call me and let me know what you would like to talk about. My phone number is 437-8909 after 6:00 p.m. or 862-1784 from 8:00 to 5:00, Monday through Friday.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS MARCH 15th.

80-COMPUTER USERS OF HOUSTON meets the first Wednesday of each month. Anyone interested in TRS-80 microcomputers is welcome to join our group. Membership dues are \$ 5.00 per calendar year, which includes your subscription to USERS' NEWS.

USERS' NEWS

EDITOR: Brigitte Schaefer

PRODUCTION: John Schaefer

THE PROGRAM DOCTOR: E. Wood

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Bill Young

TAPE LIBRARY: Floyd Atkinson

NOTES FROM COMPUSERVE:

Ben Taylor

USERS' NEWS is published monthly by 80-COMPUTER USERS OF HOUSTON. Mail contributions, letters to the Editor, comments etc. to:

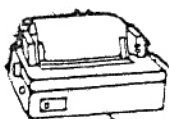
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DEADLINE: 15th of month prior to publication.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Included in members' dues. Individual issues available to non-members for 75¢ per issue. No charge for newsletter exchange. USERS' NEWS mailing list is available for sale. Publisher does not assume responsibility for programs and other material submitted that may be copyrighted.

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The Program Doctor—

NOTES FROM COMPUSERVE

There is a special section of Compuserve directed towards airline pilots. It deals specifically with news items geared toward the pilots, such as near misses which have occurred around the nation.

* * *

Tandy Corporation is running a newsletter on Compuserve. One special feature of the newsletter is that members can leave messages for Tandy on Compuserve.

* * *

RUMORS

An additional 16k of memory will be available for the Model II beginning this April 1. This will give the Model II a total of 128k RAM on line.

* * *

A hard disk is in the works for the Model II.

* * *

NEWS

For those planning to purchase a terminal program in the very near future, Micronet will be giving terminal programs to Micronet members free of charge. Since the Micronet fee is very reasonable, now may be the time to join so that you too can receive a free terminal program.

* * *

NEWDOS zaps 45-54 are scheduled to be mailed within two weeks. They are available now to Micronet members.

* * *

HAVING PROBLEMS WITH YOUR BASIC PROGRAMS? Ask the PROGRAM DOCTOR for help. Send you programs on cassette or printed list for testing. The PROGRAM DOCTOR will also try to help with other system programs and answer programming questions.

APPARENTLY NO ONE'S PROGRAMS WERE SICK THIS MONTH, SO THE PROGRAM DOCTOR WAS NOT NEEDED.

THE PROGRAM DOCTOR (Emory C. Wood) received his A.A.S. Data Processing from Lee Jr. College and his B.S. in Engineering Technology from Lamar University. He worked in programming for the City of Baytown for 1 1/2 years and is now the Systems Programmer for Cravens Dargan & Co., for whom he has worked 3 1/2 years. He has had experience in various languages: Cobol, Basic, Fortran, RPG, ALC, Compass and EasyCoder. He owns a TRS-80 Level II, 16k.

MISC.

Edmund J. Escudero reports that the Latin students at St. John's School are making good use of their microcomputer, which is helping their learning of Latin. Students in grades 7, 8 and 9 use the microcomputer to review vocabulary lessons from Latin to English and from English to Latin. They may also play Hangman in Latin or practice the principal parts of verbs on the computer. Edmund also reports the school needs back issues of the computing magazines for the students.

Hewlett-Packard will be sponsoring the PRODUCTIVITY COMPUTER SHOW at Stouffers Greenway Plaza Hotel on March 16 and 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Items to be displayed include OEM hardware, engineering graphics, industrial automation, lab automation, a new dimension in hard copy output, small business systems for branch offices and small businesses, display graphics and personal computers.

The show is free. Seminars are also scheduled to be held both days. For more information, call 776-6400.

TAPE LIBRARY

Tape Librarian, Floyd Atkinson, submits this short program to aid in aligning cassette recorder heads:

```
10 FOR X=1 TO 4500
20 IF X<4500 THEN GOSUB 40 ELSE 50
30 NEXT X
40 PRINT #-1" _____"
50 END
```

(ed. note: Fill in blank with 250 zeros. That means 00000000000000000000..250 times)

PROGRAMS, etc...

Joel Lewis reports that the usual input for print control will cause a top of form misalignment. The following is the usual input:

```
10 POKE 16425,1
20 CPRINT STRING$(5,138)
30 A=PEEK(16425): PRINT A
```

Joel notes that in the above, "A" will equal 2 not the expected 6, which will cause the misalignment. He says a better way to cause line feeds would be:

```
10 FOR I=1 TO 5: CPRINT CHR$(138):NEXT
```

This will increment address 16425 by 5.

LEVEL II PROGRAMMING TIP by ROBERT EDEN

THE ***BREAK*** KEY:

Whenever the *BREAK* key is hit in BASIC, the computer jumps to memory location 16396 decimal, (400C hex). This poses a number of possibilities including the following...

POKE

16396	16397	16398
62	XX	0
165	198	XX
195	LSB	MSB

62 XX 0 *BREAK* will print the ASCII of XX

165 198 XX *BREAK* will return the ASCII of XX

*SHIFT**BREAK* will produce ASCII XX+1

195 LSB MSB *BREAK* jumps to location MSB LSB

Also, any other opcode can be placed at this location.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WILL SELL OR TRADE-----
Heathkit H-8, 8k memory
and video/tape I/O.....
call Tony Sloterdijk at
665-0038 after 4 p.m.

FOR SALE-Model 35 Teletype...Built in RS232...upper case only....call Don Patton at 371-7021.

WANT TO BUY--TRS-80 Expansion Interface--with or without memory..call Mike Hunt at 448-8755..after 3 p.m.

LOOKING FOR:

John Shepherd is looking for a program that will slave a TRS-80 MODEL I to a remote terminal..call John at 661-2338.

Your editor is looking for a program known as "PILLBOX" or something similar. Artillery game with two bunkers...give altitude and velocity of rocket...each side tries to shoot the other side by shooting over mountain..This game was 1st seen at the Meyerland Radio Shack about 2 years ago. Call 663-7293 after 8 p.m.

MISCELLANEOUS...

In the next issue of USERS' NEWS, a list of bulletin boards available to 80-members will be published. If you know of any bulletin boards, drop a line to USERS' NEWS for the upcoming list.

DISK LIBRARY DISK LIST

BASICPEN--converts basic program to Electric Pencil file
CODEREV---relocates machine code programs
COMPRESS--removes spaces and remarks from basic program
DISKSEA/RCH--searchs disk for occurrence of requested data
INKEY/BAS-inkey routine demonstrates screen formatting
MAILSORT--mail list demo.
MIDWAY----airplane bombing game
RAMTEST---machine code RAM memory test
RLBRAIN---test to determine which side of your brain has greatest influence
TREK-----Startrek game
Z80DISAS--basic dissassembler
BOXGRAPH--program draws random boxes
DISKMAP---produces map of disk directory-shows killed files and allocated granules
EQUGRAPH--program graphs equasions
ESP-----test to determine ESP potential
FLASHER---basic program that pokes flashing cursur routine into memory
GOMOKE----basic game
KEEPER----disk copying and utility program (requires 2 disk drives & NEWDOS)
LNAMORT---loan amortization program
MAGINDEX--cassette based magazine index
MENU-----allows single key running of programs
NUMKP/CMD--allows normal keyboard to be used like numeric keypad
NUMKP/SRC
QUICKSRT--fast basic sort routine
SETUP-----allows you to set up a string of commands to be executed in succession
TPL-----produces a printout of program list-one command per line
TREK78----Startrek game
TRS23216
TRS23248--printer driver program for TRS232 printer interface
COPEZE----DOS copying program
GAMEPAC1--4 games, Reverse, Bomb, One Pocket Pool, Frogs
GRAPHIC---graphics demo
RSDABA----Electric Pencil file describing R.S. database programs from Microne
SPASTARS--fast machine code game for one or two players
SPLIT/CMD-machine codes allows you to have two programs available at same tin
TINYCOMP
TINYCOMP/DOS--tiny compiler produces machine code from limited number of basi statements
ZAP48/JCL-chain program to update DOS on NEWDOS 80 discs
DATAMAKR--makes basic data statmenets from machine code program
DEMERGE/PCL--shows how to make dancing demons save routines to disk
EXTEND21--Bill Stockwell's extend program extends basic functions
PENPATCH/PCL--Electric Pencil patches to improve utility
CON4-----Connect 4 game
DEMONS----game
FOOTBALL--game
HURICANE--tracking program
STKMKT---comments of stock market
TAKEOFF---business planning demo program
TAROT-----Tarot Cards give answers to your questions
DOGSTAR---adventure program from Softside Magazine
FLIGHT----basic flight simulator program
GOMOKU/CMD--machine code game
LIFE/CMD--machine code game
EXTEND/CMD--basic extension program by Bill Stockwell
EXTEND/PCL--Matrix invert program used with EXTEND/CMD

REVIEW by ROBERT EDEN

Tired of zapping the Aliens in Super Nova, Galaxy Invasion or Space Invaders? If that is the case, then Air Traffic Controller (ATC) by David Mannering is for you. In ATC you must successfully land 26 jet and prop aircraft in a predefined period of time.

ATC is different than most other computer games. All the decisions are made by you. In other words only YOUR decisions will cause an early end to the game. It is your job, as an Air Traffic Controller, to see if all 26 aircraft land or make their destinations safely. Each jet or prop aircraft is represented by a letter of the alphabet. You select whether it will take you 16 minutes or up to 99 minutes to land your aircraft. The computer, however, decides how many aircraft appear on your screen at one time.

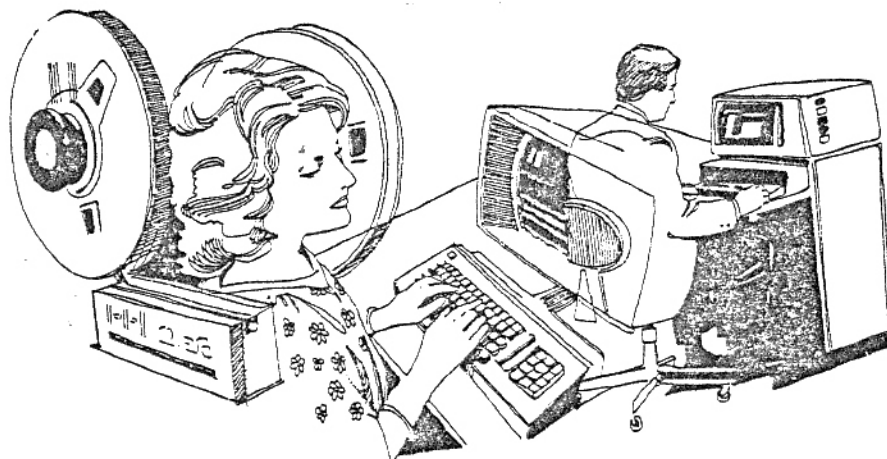
For example, in the 16 minute game, all of the aircraft appear within 2 minutes of when you start. I think it is impossible to win at this time level. Once in the 99 minute game, I waited 15 minutes before the first aircraft appeared on my screen, but the computer then decided to send in five (5) at one time!

You must land the same number of aircraft in the 16 minute game as you would in the 99 minute game. Even at the 99 minute game level, it may take you hours of trying before you win your first game. But do not let this discourage you. The thrill of the game is always there. When you start, the game is easy; but when you get involved in it, you begin to sympathize with professional Air Traffic Controllers who face the same kind of pressure daily.

ATC is available for under \$ 10.00. It will fit in 4k and includes a keybounce routine.

WHAT'S NEW

For Model I owner who haven't heard, Radio Shack has something new for you. Those who don't have a RS-232 Expansion Interface, the TRS-80 Modem I is now available. It has a special software package and cable that lets you communicate by way of the telephone lines by using the cassette port. The FCC approved telephone Modem is a full originate/answer direct-connect modem. It contains a standard DB-25, RS232 connector and a DIN connector for the cassette connection and the Color Computer's RS-232 port. The baud rate is software selectable for 0-300 baud and 0-600 baud. The price is only \$ 149.00 which does not include the cable.



EDITOR'S COMMENT.....

I was somewhat disappointed in the Business & Personal Computer Sales Expo held here recently. I really was expecting more hardware and software for the micro-computer users and, hopefully, something new. For those who attended the show for business reasons, I'm sure the show was ehlpful as well as interesting. Many of those who use computers mainly for personal pleasure found the show was not for them. There was very little about the show that was new to those who refularly keep up with the micro-computer scene. About 10 exhibitors were geared towards the personal micro-computer users. One of these exhibitors was Adventure International. Although the booth was expansive with over 120 pieces of software displayed, along with other miscellaneous items like books, tee-shirts, etc., I was a bit disappointed. Rumor had it that Scott Adams would be at the show. Not only was Mr. Adams not at the show, he had never been scheduled to attend. I was not the only person upset to hear this news as some users attended the show mainly to meet Mr. Adams. In place of Mr. Adams, Adventure International sent their General Manager, Linda Morgan, to meet and speak with those attending the show. Ms. Morgan was very helpful and when I mentioned to her that I was expecting to speak with Scott Adams at the show, she quickly connected me with Mr. Adams by telephone. Despite the bad connection with Floriday and the late hour, Mr. Adams was very courteous. Mr. Adams said that the second part of Adventure 10 and that Adventure 11 are slated to be out within three (3) months. The next piece of software to be released by Adventure International will be THE CLASSIC ADVENTURE for Apple Users and CURSE OF CROWLEY MANOR for TRS-80 users. The latter program is written by JYM PEARSON, who also wrote ZOSED in SPACE. CURSE OF CROWLEY MANOR is a Sherlock Holmes type adventure. For those who especially wanted to meet Scott Adams at the computer show, Mr. Adams told me that he was scheduled to attend the Southwest Computer Show in Dallas. The show will run April 9 through 12 at the Dallas Market Hall. Tickets will only be \$ 5.00, which can be obtained by writing National Computer Shows, 824 Boylston Street, Chestnut Hill, Mass., 02167. Tickets can also be purchased at the show. USERS' NEWS hopes to be at the Dallas show to meet Mr. Adams in person. I do want to give PRODUX 2000 a pat on the back because basically, the show was very well put together and personally, I thought it was a very good business computer show. Produx 2000 did very well for the 1st show of this type in Houston. We will be one of the first to attend the October 15th show.

L A S T M E E T I N G

At the last meeting Merrick Johnson gave a program on Assembly Language. The program was helpful for those who have a basic knowledge of A.L.

Don Patton distributed a handout on the "IF, THEN, ELSE State-ments" and explained the various ways these statements work and how to test them.

Kevin Taylor of Computex brought a LNW 80 Color Computer Board and a driver interface board for the Model III for the membership to examine. He also gave out tickets for the Computer Show that was held at the Convention Center. Kevin reminded everyone of his new address (which is listed in the computer store index in this issue).

Smith Hazlewood brought a Base 2 printer to show the membership. He explained how these printers were being sold at a very low price.

Dr. Al Lewis gave a rundown on the audio level meter he made for his cassette recorder.

HINT:

Static Electricity can build up to 20,000-30,000 volts between your foot and the carpet. One firm ended the problem of its computer losing programs because of static electricity by spraying the carpet with FABRIC SOFTENER.

---B.C. Taylor

BELOW IS AN INDEX OF COMPUTER STORES IN OUR AREA WHICH CARRY TRS-80 ITEMS.

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Webster, Texas 77598
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hardware & small line of
software, misc. items
KEVIN TAYLOR, Pres.

* * *

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9:30-6 M,W,F & S
RANDY HALL, Mgr.
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TRS-80 software

* * *

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take Parker Rd. Exit
Houston, Texas
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CHUCK KAINER, Mgr.
hours: 10-7 M-F; 10-5 S
large line of TRS-80
software & some hardware

* * *

COMPUSHOP

211-A FM 1960 West
FM 1960 West and I-45
Houston, Texas
(713) 893-2060
hours: 10-6 M-F; 10-5 S
NANCY GOOD, Mgr.
medium line TRS-80 soft-
ware and limited hardware

* * *

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5315 Bissonnet
Bellaire, Texas
(713) 661-2008
hours: 10-7 M-F; 10-5 S
STEVEN TUNE, Mgr.
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pieces of TRS-80 soft-
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Will guarantee at local
level all software they
sell.

* * *

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* * *

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Crosstimbers Exit off of I-45
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hours: 10-9 M-S
STEVE GREENBAUM, Mgr.

* * *

6813 Southwest Frwy.
Houston, Texas
(713) 777-4697
hours: 9-7:30 M-F; 10-5 S
JOHN HANSEN, Mgr.

* * *

11543 Gulf Freeway
Edgebrook Plaza
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(713) 943-9310
hours: 9-7 M-S
BARBARA GORMAN, Mgr.

* * *

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DAVE HANSEN, Mgr.

* * *

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* * *

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